

Tom Horne  
Superintendent

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## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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### **HORNE ANNOUNCES 79 PERCENT OF ARIZONA SCHOOLS MAKE ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP)**

PHOENIX (Thursday September 1, 2005) -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne today released some overall results for the number of schools that made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The number of schools achieving AYP over the past three years: 2003: 76 percent; 2004: 82 percent; 2005: 79 percent.

“The number of schools making AYP is staying approximately constant. Federal requirements for the number of students testing “proficient” in order for a school to make AYP is increased substantially this year. This means that substantially more Arizona students tested “proficient” this year over last year,” Horne said.

“This is consistent with other test results. Recently, we learned that Arizona students increased their scores this year on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, and perform above the national average. Several months ago, we learned that Arizona students performed above the national average on the Terra Nova, a nationally normed test. All of this indicates that Arizona students are learning more, and demonstrating this on their tests,” he added.

AYP is measured using data from the AIMS test and requires that 95 percent of the students in a school take the test. It also requires that students from all applicable ethnic and social backgrounds in a school pass the test. Failure of even one demographic subgroup to pass the test or not achieve 95 percent attendance when it’s given, results in failure for the entire school regardless of all other students. In addition, elementary school attendance, and high school graduation rates are factored into AYP.

“I believe parents should be more focused on the state’s accountability profiles that will be released on October 14. Under the federal system, there are a 144 ways for schools to fail. The state system is more comprehensive and fair, and the focus should be on the state results,” Horne concluded.

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